

# In Harmony

Newsletter of the  
Adelaide Male Voice Choir

No. 6 SUMMER 2002

**Patron:**  
Her Excellency  
Marjorie Jackson-Nelson  
AC, CVO, MBE,  
Governor of South  
Australia

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Mr William Shaw

**Accompanist:**  
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**Concert Manager:**  
Mr Neville Roach  
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**Vice Patrons:**  
Miss Gladys Bailey OAM  
Mr Ray Brown  
Mr Doug Karran  
Mr Len Turner  
Mrs Connie Tremethick  
Mrs Genty Stevens  
Mrs Myfanwy James

Practices are held every Monday  
at 7.45pm to 9.45pm in the  
Hall at the rear of the Church of  
Christ, 160 Grote Street,  
Adelaide

## What a wonderful year

That's 2002 nearly over. And what a year it has been for the choir. Probably one of our most successful years. Twelve local minor concerts, two in the South-East (Millicent and Naracoorte), and three major concerts, in May, July and October. Quite a few extra rehearsals have been required and have been generally well attended.

In addition to all this the choir held a successful Garage Sale (about \$1100) and Quiz Night (well over \$600). Not only were these successful as fundraisers but also as social occasions, especially the Quiz Night. I know many of those who attended will be back again next year.

We are very pleased with the increase in membership with new members - Maurice Buggy, John White, Bruce Robertson, Ian Hunt, Bill Checkley, Phil Priest Mark Tuckwell starting this year, and we welcome back Max Nickson.

We are very grateful to all those who have appeared as soloists for the choir - Tasso Bouyessis (four times), Annamaria Beni, Anthony Waack, Roslyn Lock, Prue Hompas (who stepped in at the last moment and performed so well) and Kirsten Johnston who also sang with the choir on the South East trip. Jessica Dean, who sang at two of our smaller concerts, was outstanding.

We (the committee) this year experimented with the Solo Night, making it a Solo/Social Night, cabaret style. There were many solos, duets and trios - but no competition. We were

overwhelmed with the amount of people who turned up and filled the hall. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves but now that we see how it ran, the committee will need to make some minor modifications. Thanks to those who so willingly helped (particularly the ladies, led by Rose-Ann Lawson and Judy Styles), those who performed, and particularly to Bill Shaw (who adjudicated) and Eddie Kriek on the piano, who worked the whole evening. It was a very worthwhile social occasion.

Next year promises to be a full one. There will be the normal amount of minor concerts (including some new venues) and three major concerts. On Sunday, March 30th, the choir will be holding a Film Afternoon at the Capri Cinema, Goodwood. There will be another Quiz Evening and on Friday, October 24th there will be a special event at Regency Park. More in the next newsletter about these special events.

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# Low-down on Stephen Wellington



From a very early age Stephen's first love has been sport, despite being the leader of the drum and fife band in junior school and one of two who were the school's representatives to join J. Becker's Drum and Fife Band, where they were given extra tuition and active each Saturday morning with Adelaide's entertainment. This he enjoyed immensely.

He grew up midst a musical and sporting background, one of whom was a male voice and ABC Concert soloist. For his twelfth birthday he received a piano. By this time he was enjoying football and cricket, etc., but piano lessons were arranged for Saturday mornings, which, sadly for him, meant no match play and much disappointment.

He began his working career in the office of John Martin & Co. where, over his service of 45 years he managed lay-by, budget vouchers, hire purchase, cycle billing, accounts receivable, credit, and was active in the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Institute of Management and Credit Associations, and the Commonwealth Club. He played football and cricket and five-a-side basketball for the firm. It was said they used him as a goalpost.

During his last ten years he was a Pageant Marshall, his floats being Nipper and Nimble, Stardust Castle and Father Christmas. His daughter was delighted at age four and five when she was allowed to ride each horse.

Keeping all participants in order was a daunting task as they waited in the building, corner of South Terrace and Pulteney Street, where they partook of a small amount of "dutch courage" to help them on their journey to the "Magic Cave".

When war came his enlistment sent him overseas to serve for two or three years.

Upon his return he married Peg and took up residence in Burnside where they resided for 45 years until nine years ago they moved to the Glen

Woodley Retirement Village at Myrtle Bank.

He decided to learn the organ and was in both the Maughan Church choir with tenor Fred Williamson (always a joy to listen to) and Beaumont Church choir for morning service and played the lovely pipe organ for evening service.

During this time he played cricket for Burnside Turf Association and social tennis. He sustained a broken leg in an accident and then became the

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*Stephen is a long-time member who doesn't hesitate to quietly help where he can. He has gained many additional friends since joining the choir and is at all times a loyal and committed member.*

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Turf Association's publicity officer, reporting on the Saturday afternoon matches to *The Advertiser*, *Sunday Mail* and *5AD*. Thus he kept a useful interest in the game.

Retirement day arrived and accompanying that was a set of bowls from a friend who left a message which said "Please join us at Beaumont Bowling Club". How could he refuse? With his competitive spirit encouraged, he was soon into matches and enjoying the companionship of old and new friends.

Other invitations came to join the ARPA Choir (where he met the gentle George Jones) who invited him to join the Adelaide Male Voice Choir. He also sang with COTA and Retired Teachers where he met Denis West and suggested he do the same.

Singing as a choir member and being

inspired by the leadership and professionalism of Bill Shaw with Eddie Kriek accompanying and in addition the friendly atmosphere and dedication of fellow members, make even the practices as well as the concerts a opportunity to strive to be better.

Much gratitude must be conveyed firstly to John Duffield and Atha Asi-Stevens, who kindly undertake night transportation after eye surgery made it difficult to drive at night. Also to Don Jessop for his supportive services.

It does seem at this time appropriate to relate that after 55 1/2 years of marriage and 22 years of wonderful retirement, he and Peg have been truly blessed. So many memories of overseas travel, leisure time at his Victor Harbor holiday home and Stephen's interest in sport, reading from his library, regular luncheon meetings (male only), always ABC FM in the background, piano playing, plus a little gardening (not too hard - turning the sprinklers on to keep the lawns nice and green), with just a little time to smell the roses.

Five grand-daughters and one grandson, whose wish to be taller than his grandfather has been fulfilled at almost 17 years, and two very young great-grandsons complete it all.



# Notes from Committee

## FILM AFTERNOON

The Film Afternoon, on Sunday, March 30th, was discussed. It will be in the Capri Theatre and all members and friends are asked to get behind this effort to raise funds for the choir. It is hoped that we can at least get 500 to this function. The tickets will cost \$10 and will include some singing from the choir, a latest-release film and afternoon tea and cake.

## "WE'D LOVE A PIANO"

This is the title of the major May concert in Pilgrim Church at which the choir will launch its appeal to raise funds for a new practice piano. Our present one has stood us in good stead for the past 14-15 years but is nearing the end of its useful life. At the concert Edward Kriek will be joined by Jeff Kong. Not only will both of them play solos but they will join forces and perform together on two pianos. This

promises to be an exciting event and one not to be missed

## CONCERT BOOKINGS MANAGER

David Duffner has been appointed to the above position. Although not a member of the committee, David has willingly accepted this commitment and we are sure that next year's programme is in safe hands.

## CONCERT MANAGER

Another non-member of the committee, Neville Roach has, again, willingly accepted the above position. He will look after all the details regarding our major concerts so that things run smoothly on the day. Neville will, no doubt, be effective in this position.

## CD OF PILGRIM CONCERT

This monster microphone helped record the October concert in Pilgrim

Church and the CD should be ready any day now. Not only will this include



the choir but also items by Tasso Bouyessis, Kirsten Johnston and of course that wonderful solo by Jamie Adam on the marimba with the outstanding accompaniment by Edward Kriek.

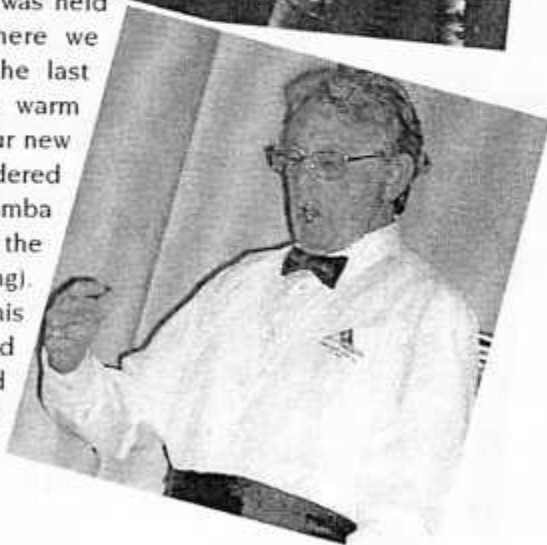
## SPECIAL FUNCTION NEXT NOVEMBER

There will be a lot more about this in the next and subsequent newsletters up to the date of this exciting function, but suffice to say that it will be something quite different to what we have done before and, hopefully, will further add to our funds.

## The Glynde Concert



Another enjoyable evening's concert was held at the Glynde Lutheran Home where we regularly perform every year on the last Thursday in November. Being a warm evening we were able to show off our new shirts with the choir's logo embroidered on it - they looked good! Charlie Gamba sang solo as usual (it wouldn't be the Glynde concert if Charlie didn't sing). He was joined by James Thoday (his usual polished performance) and Jessica Dean, who stopped everyone breathing for 2 or 3 minutes when she sang, unaccompanied, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot".



# Spring Concert – Sunday, October 20th



**THE CHOIR RELAXING AFTER THE SHOW**

*The Spring Concert at Pilgrim Church was attended by a very enthusiastic audience - and they had a lot to be enthusiastic about. The Choir sang songs from the shows with many foot-tapping numbers and the soloists were outstanding, with Tasso Bouyessis (at his usual best), joined by Kirsten Johnston (a really wonderful performance), all the way from Coonawarra and who sang with the choir at Millicent and Naracoorte. To top the whole afternoon off there was an outstanding solo item by Jamie Adam on the Marimba with superb accompaniment from Edward Kriek*



*Above left, Jamie Adam with Edward Kriek; above right, a small section of the choir; left, Kirsten Johnston with Tasso Bouyessis; right, Kirsten Johnston again, this time with the Choir's Director of Music, William Shaw.*





# A good time was had by all – QUIZ NIGHT 2002



Thanks to Ivy and Kevin Fisher and to the Quizmaster, John Young and his helper, a memorable evening was held at the Mitcham AFA Bowling Club. An unexpected amount of people turned up and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

Top left, John Young, Quizmaster; top right and above, some of the participants; right, the winner of a raffle; below, Denise, Daniel and Eddie hamming it up!



The choir will, no doubt, be holding another Quiz Night in 2003 and if this year's event was anything to go by, it might be a good idea to book early once the date and venue are advertised.

The Choir thanks everyone for attending and to Roger and Pam Wicks of GLENELG MITRE 10 who kindly donated many prizes.



## What a performance at the first Solo/Social Evening

The first non-competitive solo night was combined with a social evening and many choir members' wives/partners attended, along with friends of the choir. Although

it was the first such evening, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and, no doubt, we shall repeat it in 2003.



Jean-Pierre Rival



Ian Milbank



A small section of the audience.



Mark Tutchwell



Kevin Fisher



A pair of lively lads - John Wear and Ian Hunt



# INSTRUCTIONS ON GIVING YOUR CAT A PILL

1. Pick cat up and cradle it in the crock of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right-hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.



2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.

3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.

4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.



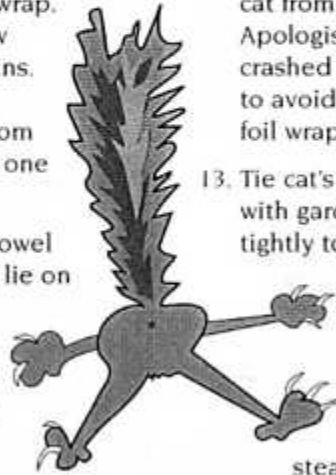
5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from the garden.

6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knee, holding front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to

hold cat's head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.

7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines from the hearth and set to one side for gluing later.

8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with its head just visible from below spouse's armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force cat's mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.



9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply band-aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from the carpet with cold water and soap.

10. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.

11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek

and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Throw t-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.

12. Call fire department to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.

13. Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table. Find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Force cat's mouth open with small spanner. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour 1/2 pint of water down throat to wash pill down.

14. Get spouse to drive you to emergency room; sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Stop by furniture shop on way home to order new table.



## Help! Help!

### New Members

Since our last newsletter we welcome Mark Tuckwell who has joined the ranks of our choir.

We always need new members, *particularly first and second tenors*, and we ask that all present members and friends of the choir keep this in mind and try to encourage relations or friends to join the choir.

## Letters to the Editor

The editor would appreciate letters from anyone who reads this newsletter, critical or otherwise - it will make it much more relevant to know how you feel about the content. (Maybe you could even send a story that you think would be appropriate to include.)





## Gladys Bailey, OAM

For those of you who are not aware and wondering why they have not seen Gladys at our recent concerts and events, she had an accident a few weeks ago and after spending time and having an operation in the Royal Adelaide Hospital, she is now in the Pinnaroo Hospital (Pinnaroo is where her family live and where she grew up) and making slow but steady progress. We wish her well and hope to meet up with her again in 2003.



*The Adelaide Male Voice Choir wishes its Patron, Vice-Patrons, friends and all the audiences we have sung to this year a very Happy and Safe Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.*

*We all hope that we can bring some enjoyment to you next year.*

## We are what we sing

A tense, tightly held body resistant to the music, operating purely from the head, fighting the pulse and rhythm and denying access to the emotions, will result in a singing voice using only a fraction of its potential and a delivery that has limited dynamic range. The message will be contrived and empty. A shallow performance. In trusting the natural motion of voice and body, a compelling performance can be accomplished. To sing in a way that transmits only an educated singing technique and a polished and rehearsed repertoire, will impart a mere fraction of the singer's potential.

To sing with emotional commitment, is a courageous and sometimes exposing experience, but one which is rewarded by the connection that one has made with the spectator and the exhilaration of being at one with the music with your heart and soul, living in the music.

Nervousness will often stand as a sentry, guarding the gateway, through which one must pass to personify an uninhibited and integrated performance. The stories of singers who have confessed to anxiety and insecurity before going on stage to face an audience are numerous and yet many of those same singers overcame these apprehensions when in the flow of a performance . . . once the music 'takes them'.

It is crucial, therefore, for professional singers to find the resources within themselves in order to fully focus in on the voice in the body and, in doing so, avoiding the suppression of the full dynamic range of the voice. To stand in fear and rigidity will produce a rigid and fearful vocal delivery, obscuring all that is on the inside and concealing the full voice lying in wait underneath the nervousness.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

### JANUARY

Monday 27th 7.45 pm FIRST CHOIR PRACTICE

### FEBRUARY

Monday 3rd 7.45 pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## "Friends of the Choir" Mailing List

Our special "Friends of the Choir" mailing list informs you of the Adelaide Male Voice Choir's Concerts and Functions.

Functions include dinners and other social occasions at which we would be pleased to welcome you.

For details please contact the Secretary

Mr Colin Styles, 4 Petrel Court, Flagstaff Hill, 5159

Tel.: (08) 8270 2628 Email: coljud@ozemail.com.au

Please include me on the special "Friends of the Choir" mailing list

Name

Address

Postcode

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